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UMMC to mark start of new housing project

BATAVIA — United Memorial Medical Center will celebrate the beginning of renovations for the new senior housing project, Jerome Towers, at a reception from 4 to 6 p.m. June 9 at 16 Bank St. Retired State Sen. Mary Lou Rath and the Sisters of Mercy will be honored at the event, hospital spokeswoman Colleen Flynn said Tuesday.

UMMC, in partnership with Conifer Realty LLC, will renovate the top four floors of the former St. Jerome Hospital on Bank Street, Batavia, to achieve 37 one- and two-bedroom rental units for low and moderate income seniors.

St. Jerome Hospital, which was operated by the Catholic Health System of WNY, merged with Genesee Memorial Hospital on Jan. 1, 2000, to create United Memorial Medical Center. Since the merger nearly 10 years ago, the majority of the main hospital building on the Bank Street campus has been underutilized or vacant. In December 2007, UMMC opened The Jerome Center, which houses comprehensive outpatient diagnostic services, occupational medicine, specialty and primary care services on the ground floor of the former St. Jerome Hospital.

The addition of senior housing will complete a multi-phased plan to

repurpose the campus. The façade of the building will remain intact and remain as a local landmark. Senior housing residents will have access to the medical services, gift shop and cafe located on the ground floor without having to exit the building. Residents will also have the convenience of having the YMCA and Senior Center located within steps of the facility, Flynn said.

This project is expected to take a year to complete and represents an investment of \$8 million into downtown Batavia. Conifer LeChase Construction will manage the project. Architectural services were provided by Clark Patterson Lee.